



# Senate Press Office

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Kasim Reed Speaks at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Leadership Day**

**ATLANTA** (November 12, 2008) – State Sen. Kasim Reed (D-Atlanta) recently participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Leadership Day in Atlanta hosted by the Regional Business Coalition (RBC). Sen. Reed was joined by Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to discuss the upcoming 2009 legislative session and how metro Atlanta's issues fit within the overall work of the General Assembly.

"Georgia's economy, the state budget, transportation and water resources will be issues of great concern during the upcoming 2009 legislative session," said Sen. Reed. "It is vital that we come together in a bipartisan effort to help solve the issues that affect so many Georgians."

According to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, since 2000, Georgia has ranked as the third fastest growing state in population and home to four of the fastest growing counties in the country. Traffic congestion in Georgia is getting worse because vehicle travel is increasing at a rate significantly greater than new roadway capacity is being added. From 1990 to 2005, vehicle travel increased by 63 percent while lane miles only increased by six percent.

"Our roads are becoming increasingly congested on a daily basis, which eventually makes daily activities such as getting to work and home difficult for Georgia families. If we do not meet the challenge of growing traffic congestion head on, our state will not be able to attract new businesses to Georgia and the jobs that come with them," added Sen. Reed.

The RBC is a non-partisan group consisting of 16 chambers of commerce in the 13-county metro Atlanta region. With a combined membership base of approximately 17,000 businesses, the RBC provides a strong collective voice on increasingly complex natural resource and infrastructure issues that affect the region's prosperity.

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*Sen. Kasim Reed represents the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes portions of Douglas and Fulton counties. He may be reached by phone at 404.463.1379 or by e-mail at [kasim.reed@senate.ga.gov](mailto:kasim.reed@senate.ga.gov).*